

Amendments to claims

1 (currently amended): An adhesive composition comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from, on a dry weight basis, from about 50 to about 98% of an alkyl acrylate monomer and/or alkyl methacrylate monomer and from about 2 to about 50% of a polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomer, wherein said composition lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker.

2 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 wherein the polymerizable nitrogen containing monomer is selected from the group consisting of an N-substituted acrylamide monomer, an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer, vinylacetamides, nitriles, or mixtures thereof.

3 (original): The adhesive of claim 2 wherein the nitrile is methacrylonitrile or 2-cyanoethylacrylate.

4 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 which has a Tg of less than about 10°C.

5 (original): The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the alkyl acrylate monomer is 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and/or n-butyl acrylate.

6 (original): The adhesive of claim 5 wherein the nitrogen-containing monomer is an N-

substituted acrylamide monomer and/or an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer.

7 (original): The adhesive of claim 6 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide is t-octyl acrylamide.

8 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 further comprising a therapeutic agent.

9 (original): The adhesive of claim 8 wherein the therapeutic agent is a pharmacologically active agent.

10 (original): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 8.

11 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 wherein the adhesive serves as a carrier for the therapeutic agent.

12 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 comprising an adhesive layer, and a backing layer.

13 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 further comprising a release layer.

14 (original): A method of administering a therapeutic agent to a patient comprising applying to a body surface of a patient a transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 1 and a therapeutic agent.

15 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 9 wherein the pharmacologically active agent is fentanyl.

16. (previously presented): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 15.

17 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein the therapeutic agent is fentanyl.

18 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 1 comprising 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate and an N-substituted acrylamide monomer.

19 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 18 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide is t-octyl acrylamide.

20 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 18 further comprising a therapeutic agent.